

# Superannuated Teachers of Ontario

District 16 City of Toronto

## Newsletter

President:

Al Robb.

April, 1986.

Editor:

Phil Hornick.

Dear Friends:

Ah, Spring is in the air, at last! Hockey winding down, baseball starting up, and snowbirds returning. What more can we ask? And soon, we'll be planting flowers, trimming bushes, and cutting grass. I can't wait!

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### A Message from the President:

"As your President, I hope to continue the good work started by my predecessors. Mary Thomas saw a need for better communication from the Senate and Provincial Body, and this communication has now improved.

But if we, as individuals, want our District or the Provincial Body to take action on some topic or issue, it is up to us to communicate our wishes by writing to the District or Provincial President, or by proposing a motion at a general meeting.

In its infancy, STO fought successfully for automatic escalation, and is currently working on the best five-year average for its members. Particularly, we are seeking special help for those on extremely low pensions. It is the Provincial Body which negotiates and contracts our Health Plans. But what changes do you want? Tell us!

There are other facets of life for us and for other Seniors where we can help. We are a significant section of Society, and, by making our wishes known, we can help to improve the lifestyles for ourselves, and for others.

No one can guarantee that specific actions will be taken by any levels of government, but nothing will happen if we don't try."

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Your Editor offers sincere apologies for having omitted several names from the IN MEMORIAM section of the January Newsletter. The information was received too late to be included.

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A MEMORIAL SERVICE for the late ELDON BRETHOUR will be held on Saturday, April 26, 1986, 3:00 p.m., at St. James' Cathedral. All interested persons are asked to attend.

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Our Speaker at the May Breakfast will be Mr. Murray Dryden, founder of "Children Sleeping Around the World." For details, see Page 4.

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February Meeting

Our February Meeting was an interesting one, and well attended. Al Robb, President, chaired the meeting, and welcomed everyone.

In his introductory remarks, Al spoke briefly about improved communication between STO and its members, and commented on the Biennial Review, stressing the need for immediate action to assist those retirees on low pensions. He also made reference to a change in the Act, designed to allow certain Secondary School Teachers to retire early without penalty.

Jean Watson brought greetings from Club 16, and outlined several up-coming events. She urged members to sign up early for Hank Condie's "Field Trip", noting that the last outing was over-subscribed. Jean also asked for volunteers to serve on the Executive of Club 16.

Mike Lennox introduced our Speaker, Mr. William Dendy, who is an architectural historian, and author of LOST TORONTO.

Following Mr. Dendy's presentation, Margaret Smith moved a vote of thanks.

. . . . .  
The following summary of Mr. Dendy's presentation has been made from notes taken by our good friend, Is Gang:

"...Through the use of slides, Mr. Dendy traced the emerging composite image of Toronto from the earliest 18th Century maps of the planned lay-out of streets, parks, esplanades, and cultural centres, to the development plans of the 19th Century, as the coming of the railways made their impact... From the earliest heritage of English, Scottish, and Welsh influence on buildings, as envisioned by Simcoe, Dorchester, Russell, Baldwin, and Bond-Head, the super-imposition of North American economic pragmatism made its evidence felt... Overshadowed by modern sky-scrappers, the campaniles and towers reminiscent of an earlier era can still be seen in the Confederation Life Building at Richmond and Bay...Commerce Court is an example of an old-world parkette surrounded by American sky-scrappers..."

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While the "coffee period" before our general meetings is used as a time to socialize, it also gives members an opportunity to meet in small groups and discuss matters related to STO. One member suggested that we have one business meeting a year, when everyone could be brought up-to-date on the Senate, Provincial Executive, and our own Executive. Members would also have an opportunity to discuss issues, and offer some direction to our Executive.

The suggestion is a good one, and, if nothing else, it would give all members a greater feeling of "belonging" and involvement.

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Do You Know Your President?

Al Robb hails from Thunder Bay, when it was known as Fort William. After four years of teaching there, he moved to Toronto, starting at the Malton Emergency Housing Unit. From there, Al moved on to several schools as teacher, vice principal, and principal.

Al has always been interested and active in Federation. He was a member of the Counselling and Relations Committee of OPSMTF, and the Relations and Discipline Committee of OTF. For five years he was on the Executive of OPSMTF, serving as President for one year. In addition, he was on the Board of Governors of OTF.

Al was honored for his services in Federation by being made an Honorary Life Member of OPSMTF, and a Fellow of OTF.

At the November Senate, Al was elected to the Executive of STO, a position he rightfully deserves. He has much to offer, and we all wish him the best of luck.

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On "LOW PENSIONS" and "RECALCULATION"

The Progress Report on the BIENNIAL REVIEW provided us with some interesting reading, but shed little new light on our two main areas of concern, "low pensions" and "recalculation".

It has been pointed out that some 15% of full-service retirees receive an annual allowance of less than \$10,000 from the Superannuation Fund. These persons taught through the years when salaries were low, and pensions were based on ten-year, and in some cases fifteen-year averages. Besides, it is doubtful if any, or many of these persons receive the C.P.P. While they do gain, somewhat, from the annual escalation, they would benefit little from any recalculation based on the best five-year average.

These people deserve special consideration, and placing the matter in the hands of a sub-committee is a step in the right direction. The stand taken by OTF to support "introduction of a floor that will ensure that all full-service superannuates have income from Teachers' Superannuation and C.P.P. that exceeds the Guaranteed Income Supplement cut-off level" is commendable. However, the situation is urgent, and requires immediate action.

Something must be done, also, to correct the discriminatory aspect of the 1983 Superannuation Act, which changed the basis for recalculation to the best five-year average. An article, entitled "Changes to Teachers' Pension Plans", in the March 1984 edition of EDUCATION ONTARIO, noted that "...the healthy condition of the Fund justifies that the best five year provision can and should be granted to all retirees...If an adjustment has been made for those who retired one year before the Act was passed, and two years before the Act was passed, it should be made for those who retired three, five, and ten years ago, and so on..." Need we say more?

(Continued on next page)

"LOW PENSIONS" AND "RECALCULATION" (Cont'd.)

Any final action taken on the issues of Low Pensions and Re-calculation, as well as other issues affecting retirees, will depend upon the cost estimates from the Actuaries, and also an actuarial evaluation of the Fund, as of December 31, 1984. In the meantime, all we can do is wait, and hope!

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The Toronto Star (March 10, 1986), reporting on an interview with the President of OTF at a meeting of the Provincial Assembly of OSSTF, had this to say: "...Ontario teachers are losing 'hundreds of millions of dollars' of pension earnings each year because their \$8.8 billion pension fund is restricted to non-marketable Province of Ontario bonds...The Province pays the Teachers' Superannuation Commission 11.2 per cent a year on its vast holdings - but it probably could get 19 per cent if its investments were diversified into regular stocks and bonds..."

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Acting on a suggestion from District 16, the Provincial Executive now sends to each District President a copy of the Minutes of the Provincial Executive meetings. In this way, items of interest and importance can be passed on to the membership through general meetings and Newsletters, without the members having to wait for reports from the Provincial Senate.

From the Minutes of recent Provincial Executive meetings:

- ✓ - Mr. Tom Tait will be heading up a group to develop a booklet containing information on instructions and procedures to be followed when a spouse dies.
- ✓ - Editors of District Newsletters will meet the day following the November Senate, with expenses paid by STO.
- ✓ - Mr. Mal Steele will be chairing an ad hoc Committee on "The Future Directions of STO Efforts".
- ✓ - STO, through the Canadian Teachers' Federation, will support the Canadian Labour Congress in its stand opposing the Federal Consultation Paper on Housing, which is designed to eliminate Federal subsidies on all housing except co-operatives.

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| <u>A N N U A L B R E A K F A S T</u> |                                      |
| Date:                                | Thursday, May 15, 1986               |
| Time:                                | 9:00 a.m.                            |
| Speaker:                             | Mr. Murray Dryden                    |
| Topic:                               | "Children Sleeping Around the World" |
| Place:                               | Royal York Hotel.                    |

DISTRICT 16 NOTES:

In order to provide input for our meetings, Bernice McGinn, (3rd V.P.) has prepared a questionnaire, which is being sent to all members. Please read it, complete the blanks, and add your comments, and bring it to the May Breakfast, or mail it to Bernice McGinn, 19 Charlemont Crescent, Agincourt, MIT 1M3.

Our Speaker at the May Breakfast will be Mr. Murray Dryden, the founder of "Sleeping Children Around the World". Mr. Dryden was recommended by Cecilia Dineen, our Secretary.

Your Executive has directed its Senator to the May Senate, to vote against any motions or resolutions which are likely to involve STO in supporting "causes" not directly of benefit to the members of STO, or retirees in general.

Mary Thomas (Past President) will be preparing the next issue of FACTS AND IMPRESSIONS, which should reach you shortly after the meeting of the May Senate.

No doubt, the Senate will continue to press for a satisfactory resolution to our concerns re low pensions and recalculation. To this end, a motion is going forward from our Executive that these two issues receive "top priority".

The matter of recruiting new members for STO has been discussed at our Executive and, as a result, a motion was passed that the Senate establish a "Public Relations' Committee" to make retirees aware of STO, and encourage them to join. (Perhaps we should do the same thing.)

Speaking of recruiting members, we can do a great deal in this regard. With the school term drawing to a close, and many of our friends and former colleagues retiring, it's a good time for us to contact them, and encourage them to join STO, and District 16 in particular.

Do you know that your \$2.00 fee for District 16 also gives you membership in Club 16? This is a real bonus, considering their excellent programs and activities. Just review their Bulletin, and see what's in store for the Spring!

At the request of one of our members, the Executive will be examining the possibility of having an optional life-membership fee for District 16. While there are advantages to this plan, there are also difficulties, particularly in maintaining the membership lists, and in the "bookkeeping".

If you know of any member who is ill, bereaved, a shut-in, or in need of assistance, contact Elizabeth Patterson, or any member of the Good Will Committee.

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The elderly lady was having difficulty providing the necessary identification for cashing her cheques. Finally, exasperated, she opened her purse, looked into the mirror, and said, "That's me."

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UP-COMING EVENTS

TORONTO NORMAL SCHOOL: Class of 1923-24; Reunion and Rally; on Wednesday, May 21, 1986, from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m; to be held at the Ryerson Polytechnical Institute; tea and cookies; contact one of: Jeanice MacLaren, 69 Strathgallan Avenue, Tor. M4N 1C1 483-1753, Hilda Dorse, 23 Riverside Crescent, Toronto, M6S 1B5 767-3548, Gertrude Miller, 5 Benlamond Ave., #307, Tor. M4E 1Y8 699-7740.

CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL OF COMMERCE; 75th Anniversary, to be held on May 24 and 25, 1986; for information and registration forms, call to "Hot Line", at 533-7564.

BAYCREST HOSPITAL: "Speedy-Baycrest Walk/Run for Seniors"; 5km; refreshments and prizes; on Sunday, May 11, 1986, at 9:00 a.m., from Baycrest Hospital, 3560 Bathurst Street, Toronto; call 781-8878 for registration forms.

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Exam Howlers:

"One of Shakespeare's finest poems was about Tin Pan Alley. He also wrote Tempest in a Teapot, and Twelve Nights of Christmas".

"Chaucer made the Prioress what the perfect woman should be: dainty, confusing, beautiful, and a little tricky".

"Perhaps the Knight had a wife, but we are not told this, because Chaucer is giving us a highly idolized picture".

"The author escaped to Treasure Island where he wrote Far From the Maddening Crowd".

"She was called the Firey Queen because of her bad temper".

"King Mackenzie I ruled Canada during the last war".

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IN MEMORIAM

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|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Rae Smart Glover     | Elgin (Bud) Haist         |
| Mary Robertson       | Farrell Sirman            |
| Elizabeth Grady ✓    | Audrey McCabe             |
| Winnifred Murray     | Sr. St. Eugene O'Reilly ✓ |
| Irene Beatrice Allan | Maise Margaret Bawden     |
| Walli-Hilda Ireland  | Hazel Isabel Eadie        |
| Marion Whyte         | Anah M. Baldwin           |
| Gwen Peart Ireton    | Wm. D. (Bill) Robinson    |
| Margaret H. Hunter   |                           |